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EXAMINER

BURLESON, MICHAEL L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 06/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/036,526

Applicant(s)

MATSUMOTO, BENIKO

Examiner

Michael Burleson

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-7,9-12,14-17,19 and 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-7,9-12,14-17,19 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 03/14/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
2. Applicant states that the reference of Iwasaki fails to teach that density distribution is used to determine whether the image is easy to degrade by compression or for selecting an optimum operation mode. Examiner disagrees with Applicant. Iwasaki teaches that it can be determined that printing cannot be performed with sufficient image quality when compressing the image (page 5, paragraph 0066). The image determination section (97) determines image quality based on predetermined density value (page 4, paragraph 0057). Based on this determination, printing is determined by main control section (90) (page 5, paragraph 0065). This teaches that density distribution is used to determine whether the image is easy to degrade by compression quality and the optimum operation mode is selected. Rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-12, 14-17, 19 and 20 are maintained.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1,2,4-7,9-12,14-17,19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Iwasaki US 2003/0123081.

3. Regarding claim 1, Iwasaki teaches of a scanner section (11) (page 2, paragraph 0018), which reads on a scanner unit, which reads an original document image optically, and converting it into image data. Iwasaki teaches of a main control section (90) that determines whether or not printing can be performed based on image determination (97) (page 4, paragraph 0065), which reads on an image determination section which determines the optimum operation mode for the image data read by the scanner unit on the basis of a density distribution of the image data. Iwasaki teaches of a liquid crystal display portion (86) that performs operational guidance and various instructions (page 4, paragraph 0047). He also teaches that a warning message is displayed in order for an operator to select continuing copying or copying with a

decreased compression rate (page 5, paragraph 0066 and 0075). This reads on a display unit which, when the operation mode determined by the image determination section and the operation mode specified by the user differ from each other, shows the operation mode determined by the image determination section. Iwasaki teaches of a main control section (90) that determines if printing can or cannot be done. If not, and the operator selects YES, then the main control section (90) selects a compression rate, but if the operator selects NO, then the main control section (90) continues with a compression rate (figure 5 and page 5, paragraph 0066, 0067 and 0070). This reads on a control unit which sets the operation mode determined by the image determination section when a command is given to change the operation mode to the operation mode shown on the display unit or setting the operation mode specified by the user through the operating unit when no command is given to change the operation mode to the operation mode shown on the display unit. Iwasaki teaches of a printer section (12) (figure 5 and 6, page 5, paragraph 0069), which reads on an image forming unit which performs image formation processing on the original document image read by the scanner unit on the basis of the operation mode set by the control unit.

4. Regarding claim 2, Iwasaki teaches of a scanner section (11) and a color printer (12) (page 2, paragraph 0017 and 0018), which reads on the scanner unit is a color scanner and the image forming unit is a color printer.

5. Regarding claim 4, Iwasaki teaches that the image determination section (97) determines whether or not an original image is a highly detailed image or bitmap based on the amount of data (page 4, paragraph 0057), which reads on the image

Art Unit: 2626

determination unit determines the optimum settings for image formation of the original document image by the image forming unit on the basis of the density distribution and the amount of data from the original document image read by the scanner unit.

6. Regarding claim 5, Iwasaki teaches that the image determination section (97) determines whether or not an original image is a highly detailed image or bitmap based on the amount of data based on density value of the pixels (page 4, paragraph 0057), which reads on the image determination unit determines the optimum settings for image formation of the original document image by the image forming unit by determining whether or not the document image is a complex image on the basis of the density distribution of the original document image read by the scanner unit.

7. Regarding claim 6, Iwasaki teaches of an operation panel (91) that includes a start of copying key (page 4, paragraph 0046 and 0047), which reads on an operating unit which accepts an operation mode set command and a copy operation start command from a user. Iwasaki teaches of a scanner section (11) (page 2, paragraph 0018), which reads on a scanner unit, which reads an original document image optically and converting it into image data. Iwasaki teaches of a main control unit (90) (page 5, paragraph 0060 and 0075), which reads on a determination section which, when the copy operation start command is given through the operating unit, determines whether the document image read by the scanner unit is not suitable for compression and decompression on the basis of a density distribution of the image data. Iwasaki teaches of a liquid crystal display portion (86) that performs operational guidance and various instructions (page 4, paragraph 0047). He also teaches that a warning

Art Unit: 2626

message is displayed in order for an operator to select continuing copying or copying with a decreased compression rate (page 5, paragraph 0066 and 0075). This reads on a display unit which, when the determination section determines that the document image is not suitable for compression and decompression, shows a guide to the effect that compression and decompression processing should not be performed on the document image if the operation mode set by the user involves compression and decompression. Iwasaki teaches of a main control section (90) that determines if printing can or cannot be done. If not, and the operator selects YES, then the main control section (90) selects a compression rate, but if the operator selects NO, then the main control section (90) continues with a compression rate (figure 5 and page 5, paragraph 0066, 0067 and 0070). This reads on a control unit which sets the operation mode with no compression and decompression processing when it is indicated through the operating unit not to perform compression and decompression in accordance with guide shown on the display unit and setting an operation mode with no compression and decompression processing when an operation mode with no compression and decompression processing is not indicated through the operating unit. Iwasaki teaches of a printer section (12) (figure 5 and 6, page 5, paragraph 0069), which reads on an image forming unit for performing image formation processing on the original document image read by the scanner unit on the basis of the operation mode set by the control unit.

Art Unit: 2626

8. Regarding claim 7, Iwasaki teaches of a scanner section (11) and a color printer (12) (page 2, paragraph 0017 and 0018), which reads on the scanner unit is a color scanner and the image forming unit is a color printer.

9. Regarding claim 9, Iwasaki teaches that the image determination section (97) determines whether or not an original image is a highly detailed image or bitmap based on the amount of data (page 4, paragraph 0057), which reads on the image determination unit determines whether to compress and decompress the document image or not on the basis of the density distribution and the amount of data from the original document image read by the scanner unit.

10. Regarding claim 10, Iwasaki teaches that the image determination section (97) determines whether or not an original image is a highly detailed image or bitmap based on the amount of data based on density value of the pixels (page 4, paragraph 0057 and 0073), which reads on the image determination unit determines whether or not the document image is a complex image on the basis of the density distribution of the original document image read by the scanner unit and, if the document image is a complex image, determines that compression and decompression processing should not be performed on the document image.

11. Regarding claim 11, As best understood by the claim language, Iwasaki teaches of a scanner section (11) (page 2, paragraph 0018) and a printer section (12) (figure 5 and 6, page 5, paragraph 0069), which reads on a scanner unit for reading an original document image optically and converting it into image data and an image forming unit for forming the original document image read by the scanner unit on an image formed

Art Unit: 2626

medium on the set operation mode. Iwasaki teaches of a main control section (90) that determines whether or not printing can be performed based on image determination (97) (page 4, paragraph 0065), which reads on determining the optimum operation mode for the image data read by the scanner unit on the basis of a density distribution of the image data. Iwasaki teaches of a liquid crystal display portion (86) that performs operational guidance and various instructions (page 4, paragraph 0047). He also teaches that a warning message is displayed in order for an operator to select continuing copying or copying with a decreased compression rate (page 5, paragraph 0066 and 0075). This reads on when the determined operation mode differs from the operation mode specified by the user, showing the operation mode to the user. Iwasaki teaches of a main control section (90) that determines if printing can or cannot be done. If not, and the operator selects YES, then the main control section (90) selects a compression rate, but if the operator selects NO, then the main control section (90) continues with a compression rate (figure 5 and page 5, paragraph 0066, 0067 and 0070). This reads on setting the shown operation mode when a command is given to change the operation mode to the shown operation mode or setting an operation mode specified in advance by the user when no command is given to change the operation mode to the shown operation mode. Iwasaki teaches of instructing various copy conditions and a start of copying key (page 4, paragraph 0046), which reads on performing an operation of copying the original document image in the set operation mode.

Art Unit: 2626

12. Regarding claim 12, Iwasaki teaches of a scanner section (11) and a color printer (12) (page 2, paragraph 0017 and 0018), which reads on the scanner unit is a color scanner and the image forming unit is a color printer.

13. Regarding claim 14, Iwasaki teaches that the image determination section (97) determines whether or not an original image is a highly detailed image or bitmap based on the amount of data (page 4, paragraph 0057), which reads on wherein determining the optimum operation mode is to determine the optimum settings for image formation of the original document image by the image forming unit on the basis of the density distribution and the amount of data from the original document image read by the scanner unit.

14. Regarding claim 15, Iwasaki teaches that the image determination section (97) determines whether or not an original image is a highly detailed image or bitmap based on the amount of data based on density value of the pixels (page 4, paragraph 0057), which reads on wherein determining the optimum settings for image formation of the original document image by the image forming unit by determining whether or not the document image is a complex image on the basis of the density distribution of the original document image read by the scanner unit.

15. Regarding claim 16, Iwasaki teaches of an operation panel (91) that includes a start of copying key (page 4, paragraph 0046 and 0047), which reads on an operating unit for accepting an operation mode set command and a copy operation start command from a user. Iwasaki teaches of a scanner section (11) (page 2, paragraph 0018), which reads on a scanner unit for reading an original document image optically

Art Unit: 2626

and converting it into image data. Iwasaki teaches of a printer section (12) (figure 5 and 6, page 5, paragraph 0069), which reads on an image forming unit for forming the original document image read by the scanner unit on an image formed medium in a set operation mode. Iwasaki teaches of a main control unit (90) (page 5, paragraph 0060 and 0075), which reads on when the copy operation start command is given through the operating unit, reading the document image through the scanner unit and determining whether or not the document image is suitable for compression and decompression on the basis of a density distribution. Iwasaki teaches of a liquid crystal display portion (86) that performs operational guidance and various instructions (page 4, paragraph 0047). He also teaches that a warning message is displayed in order for an operator to select continuing copying or copying with a decreased compression rate (page 5, paragraph 0066 and 0075). This reads on when the determination is that the document image is unsuitable for compression and decompression, showing a guide to the effect that compression and decompression processing should not be performed on the document image if the operation mode set by the user involves compression and decompression. Iwasaki teaches of a main control section (90) that determines if printing can or cannot be done. If not, and the operator selects YES, then the main control section (90) selects a compression rate, but if the operator selects NO, then the main control section (90) continues with a compression rate (figure 5 and page 5, paragraph 0066, 0067 and 0070). This reads on setting an operation mode with no compression and decompression processing when it is indicated through the operating unit not to perform compression and decompression in accordance with guide shown on

Art Unit: 2626

the display unit and setting an operation mode with no compression and decompression processing when an operation mode with no compression and decompression processing is not indicated through the operating unit. Iwasaki teaches of instructing various copy conditions and a start of copying key (page 4, paragraph 0046), which reads on performing an operation of copying the original document image in the set operation mode.

16. Regarding claim 17, Iwasaki teaches of a scanner section (11) and a color printer (12) (page 2, paragraph 0017 and 0018), which reads on the scanner unit is a color scanner and the image forming unit is a color printer.

17. Regarding claim 19, Iwasaki teaches that the image determination section (97) determines whether or not an original image is a highly detailed image or bitmap based on the amount of data (page 4, paragraph 0057), which reads on wherein determining whether or not the document image is unsuitable for compression and decompression on the basis of the amount of data from the original document image read by the scanner unit.

18. Regarding claim 20, Iwasaki teaches that the image determination section (97) determines whether or not an original image is a highly detailed image or bitmap based on the amount of data based on density value of the pixels (page 4, paragraph 0057 and 0073), which reads on wherein determining whether or not the document image is unsuitable for compression and decompression is to determine whether or not the document image is a complex image on the basis of the density distribution of the original document image read by the scanner unit and, if the document image is a high-

definition image, determines that the original document image is unsuitable for compression and decompression.

Conclusion

19. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Michael Burleson whose telephone number is (571) 272-7460 and fax number is (571) 273-7460. The examiner can normally be reached Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams can be reached at (571) 272-7471

Michael Burleson
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2626

MB

Mlb
May 29, 2006

KAWilliams

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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER